

U.S Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs
Environmental Justice Showcase Community



US EPA REGION 6

PROJECT UPDATE

Port Arthur, Texas – Westside Community September 2011

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COMMUNITY COMMENTS FRAME PORT ARTHUR WESTSIDE SHOWCASE PLAN

Nearly two years ago, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new national initiative to address Environmental Justice (EJ) challenges in ten communities across the country. The Westside community of Port Arthur, Texas was selected as an EJ Showcase Community.

The EJ Showcase Community project has used a collaborative community-based approach to improve the community's public health and the environment. On January 19 and March 4, 2010, EPA held public meetings in Port Arthur. EPA used input from these meetings to develop an action plan for the project.

CONSTRUCTION OF A HEALTH CLINIC ON THE WEST SIDE OF PORT ARTHUR TEXAS

After many months of discussion and coordination by EPA and Port Arthur stakeholders, a \$ 1,000,000 award for a Health Clinic on the westside of Port Arthur will be a reality. This is exciting news for the Port Arthur Westside community and all of the Port Arthur area. The construction of a health clinic is the result of team work between EPA and Port Arthur stakeholders. The Westside Clinic will address some of the critical health challenges that exist on the westside. This clinic will ensure improved health care services to some of the most needy citizens in Port Arthur. The new health

clinic will include 5,000 square feet. It will be operated by Gulf Coast Health Center. Gulf Coast is a non-profit, federally qualified health organization that provides medical services to low income, uninsured and homeless individuals in Jefferson County, eight surrounding counties in Texas and the two nearby parishes in Louisiana.

tal Environmental Project (SEP) agreement with the Valero Port Arthur Refinery that will result in the construction of a health clinic on the City's westside. Mayor Deloris Prince, expressed her delight regarding the federal government's decision. EPA will continue to partner with all Port Arthur stakeholders to improve the environment and public health in Port Arthur, Texas.

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, informed the City of Port Arthur that the EPA and the US Department of Justice have finalized a Supplemen-

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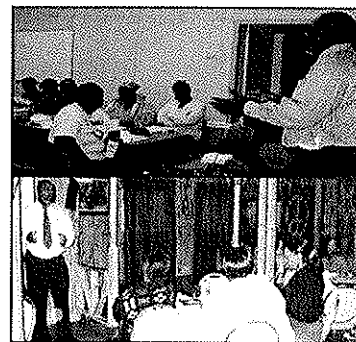
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Port Arthur Stakeholders working towards revitalization



EPA EJ representatives with stakeholders



CIDA Director Hilton Kelly with Port Arthur Residents

PORT ARTHUR WESTSIDE SHOWCASE CONCERNS AND ACTIONS

The following is a summary of concerns identified and actions to be completed in Port Arthur Texas.

EPA has planned several activities to be implemented in the Port Arthur Westside EJ Showcase Community project to address these issues.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The community raised concerns about local area emergency response planning for various emergency situations, such as accidental releases, explosions, and natural disasters.

Concerns:

- Local Emergency Plan and Training
- Resident Notification, Response, and Outreach

Actions:

- EPA assisted with Disaster Preparedness Symposiums/Emergency Response Workshops - April/Nov, 2010 and May, 2011
- EPA is assisting Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) to communicate hazard concerns plans and Emergency response to community groups - fall 2011
- EPA is working with the LEPC and residents to bridge gaps to improve the emergency response communication system in the Westside area.



Disaster Preparedness Symposium

AIR

Several concerns were expressed about local air quality. These concerns suggest a need for more air monitoring at community fence lines of air emissions and releases to the environment.

Concerns:

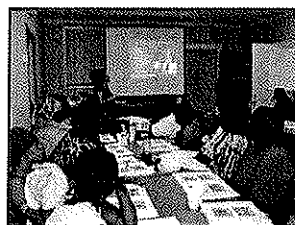
- Air Emissions
- Health Impacts
- Nuisance (odors)

Actions:

- During Nov 2010 summit and June 2011 meeting EPA informed residents about the state - wide initiative to improve Texas Clean Air Act (CAA) Permits, and air quality and effects on population
- Through Brownfields program in 2010, EPA conducted asbestos and lead-based paint surveys
- EPA conducted Healthy Home Trainings and Health Outreach in Carver Terrace Housing Complex (asthma triggers) Spring 2011
- EPA Grant allowed the Tekoa Charter students to work with the Texas Southern university in

an Air Quality Environmental Project July 2011

- EPA grant enabled UTMB/CIDA to assess and inspect, 175 homes, and educate the residents in environmental health, respiratory risks, and hazards mitigation
- Through the School Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3) EPA offered to 32 science teachers School Chemical Cleanout training-August 2011



Healthy Home Training

WATER

The community expressed concerns about local drinking water quality (such as taste, clarity, and color) and the wastewater being discharged from the fish market operations.

Concerns:

- Necessity of clean water to drink
- Adequate need for fish advisories
- Desire for safe fish to eat

Actions:

- During Nov 2010 summit and June 2011 meeting EPA:
- Explained applicability of Texas water quality stan-



Meeting Air Quality Issues
(EPA & Industry)



Tekoa School Air Quality Project

EPA EJ Showcase Community Funds

Projects supported with EPA EJ Showcase Community funds (\$100,000):

- Healthy Homes Outreach Project, University of Texas Foundation in collaboration with University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and Community in Power and Development Association,
- After School Environmental Science Lab Project, Tekoa Charter School,
- Golden Triangle Empowerment Center Job Training Program,
- EPA 'Environmental Profile' outreach document development,
- Facilitation services at January 19, 2010, meeting.



Health assessment and Outreach on asthma triggers

PORT ARTHUR WESTSIDE SHOWCASE CONCERNS AND ACTIONS

dards and showed the State's most recent assessment of surface water quality data

- Demonstrated how local public water system attain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act and State requirements
- Informed stakeholders about NPDES Permits
- Illustrated existing ground-water data for potential vapor intrusion

LAND

Concerns:

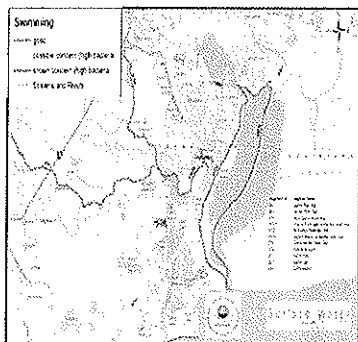
- Lack of Economic Vitality
- Soil contamination affecting health
- Desire for green development & green jobs
- Communication between residents, industry, and local government

Actions:

- Through Lighthouse Program EPA educated 106 families about conserving energy March 2010
- EPA Grant allowed Job Training Outreach for 35 students April and Sept 2010
- Supported revitalization with \$329,598 through Brownfield

assessments of 1,300 properties - March 2011

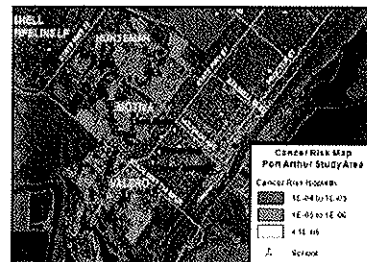
- A \$46,000 Environmental Profile contract is evaluating environmental conditions in Port Arthur November 2011
- EPA is assisting the city in the redevelopment plan near Westside Health Clinic and other areas
- EPA is working on a small business forum, more revitalization assessments, and Carver Terrace relocation of residents



Surface Water Profile



Port Arthur Community Mapping Project



EPA study in Port Arthur about Air Emissions



Port Arthur Stakeholders meeting

PORT ARTHUR EJ INITIATIVE PLAN WORKGROUPS

The EPA's collaboration with stakeholders and the city resulted in an agreement to develop and implement a comprehensive Environmental Justice plan that would improve the quality of life of Port Arthur's residents. The City, stakeholders of Port Arthur and EPA R6 are committed to finalizing the city's EJ plan through several carefully managed and broad-based Work Groups.

Each of the Work Groups has identified several potential projects that they are working aggressively on. Each Work Group includes city officials, industry and community representatives, as well as representatives from all relevant local, state, and federal agencies.

NEXT STEPS

- EPA will continue working with the communities and stakeholders to bridge gaps to improve the emergency response communication system in the Westside area.
- EPA will keep providing westside residents snapshot updates of the environmental conditions affecting public health in their community and will keep supporting technical and scientific initiatives to reduce environmental concerns in the area.
- EPA will keep working with the city, HUD, and other stakeholders assisting with revitalization efforts around The Port Arthur health clinic and relocation efforts for the residents of Carver Terrace.



OETA Associate Director, Israel Anderson establishing a Partnership with stake holders and community



Deputy Regional Administrator Larry Starfield working with industry and stakeholders



EJ Showcase Coordinator Jack Arias working with residents in Carver Terrace



Port Arthur Environmental Justice Showcase Community Project Update

<http://www.epa.gov/region6/6dra/oejta/ej/index.html>

BACKGROUND:

On November 17, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new national initiative to address Environmental Justice (EJ) challenges in ten communities across the country. The Westside community of Port Arthur, Texas was selected as an EJ Showcase Community due to its economically disadvantaged and minority population and location near several facilities including chemical plants, refineries and a hazardous waste incinerator. With the support of local industry and other government agencies, EPA Region 6 is developing and implementing a comprehensive, cross-media project in response to community-based organizations who have called upon EPA to look at the cumulative effects of multiple environmental impacts.

CURRENT STATUS:

The Showcase Community project seeks to improve environmental and public health conditions through different actions in the areas that relate to emissions reduction, improved air and water quality, emergency response in the event of disaster, and risk communications about the hazardous waste and emissions.

The Showcase Community has initiated the collaborative process by working with stakeholders in Port Arthur and has developed six work-groups that are working on the following areas:

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Disaster Preparedness Symposium April, 2010
- Emergency Response Workshop & Notification Exercise Nov 2010
- Emergency Response Symposiums May 2-7, 2011
- Assisted Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) to communicate hazards plans to community groups October 2011
- Community Hazards Emergency workshop October 2011

AIR

- EPA informed residents about state wide initiative to improve Texas Clean Air Act (CAA) Permits 2010
- Evaluated air quality and effects on population 2010
- Conducted asbestos and lead based paint surveys 2010
- Conducted Healthy Home Trainings and Health Outreach April 28-29 and May 17, 2011
- Tekoa Charter School Air Quality Environmental Project July 2011
- UTMB/CIDA Indoor Air Issues Project July 2011
- Conduct outreach on asthma triggers July 2011
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) Project to reduce Emissions (EPA & stakeholders) September 2011

WATER

- Described applicability of Texas water quality standards
- Reviewed the State of Texas' most recent assessment of surface water quality data
- Reviewed local public water system for compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act and state requirements
- Reviewed NPDES Permits
- Reviewed existing groundwater data for potential vapor intrusion
- Outreach and education project 2011

LAND

- Outreach Lighthouse Program March 2010
- Job Training Outreach Grant April 2010
- Supported local Job training program Sept 2010
- Support revitalization (sites for cleanup/reuse) through Brownfield assessments March 2011
- Conducted health awareness outreach April & May 2011
- EPA Small Business Oct Forum 2011 (revitalization)
- Community outreach on potential buffer zone creation and others 2011
- "Environmental Profile" EPA evaluation of environmental conditions September 2011
- Health Clinic and Carver Terrace Relocation Projects
- Environmental Profile project to describe Air, Water, and Land Conditions in Port Arthur September 2011

1. Environmental Quality Emergency Response

- Sustainable development plans by PAIG companies
- Enhancements to Area's Emergency Response Plan
- Pipeline Inventory and Public Awareness

2. Unemployment and Skill Development

- Establishment of Port Arthur Workforce Intelligence Database (pursue 600,000)
- Port Arthur Workforce Partnership
- The job Training and Placement Initiative (Pursue \$3-5 million to support these initiatives)

3. Downtown and Westside Revitalization

- Westside Commercial Center with Parking (\$1.5-2 million)
- Warehouse and Packaging Project (\$10-15 million)
- EDC Office Building (\$3.4 million)
- Port Arthur Housing Authority's Office Building (\$4-6 million)
- Lamar Port Arthur's Student Housing (\$4-6 million)
- Downtown-Westside Industrial District (\$10 million)
- The Downtown Pavilion (\$600,000)
- The Waterfront Project (\$30,000)

4. Community Health

- Health Clinic/Pharmacy on the Westside
- The Port Arthur Community Health Initiative
- The EPA Healthy Homes Project
- Health Awareness, Prevention and Outreach Project

5. Housing

- Westside Health Clinic (\$1.2 million)
- Carver Terrace Replacement (\$30 million)
- Herget-Foley Housing Project (\$4-5 million)
- Hurricane Replacement Housing (\$4-7 million)
- Establish a greenbelt on property where Carver Terrace is currently located (\$4 million)
- Westside Community Center (\$5-10 million)

6. Energy Efficiency

- Develop and submit Energy Efficiency Lighthouse SEP to EPA
- The Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development Project (development guidelines to support redevelopment).

Each Work Group has identified several potential projects that they are working aggressively on. Each Work Group includes city officials, industry and community representatives, as well as representatives from all relevant local, state, and federal agencies. Each Work Group identified a plan for concrete actions on June 30, 2011.

Port Arthur Environmental Justice Initiative Plan

Workgroup Accomplishments

A. Environmental Quality and Emergency Response

- The Environmental Profile (draft) of Port Arthur will be finalizing on March 4, 2011.
- We are working with EPA and TCEQ partners to develop BMPs and priorities that will help to address risk communication in Port Arthur
-
- We have been talking with Rob Lawrence (EPA PD) and DOT representatives (Rod Seeley and Terri Binns) to discuss DOT pipeline safety program and regulation over hazards liquids in Port Arthur. This is the information that DOT provided about some companies and materials that are under their enforcement actions.
- We are coordinating with Enforcement representative to identify ways to address emissions reduction in the area of Port Arthur. We developed a list of BMPs and priorities and shared this information with enforcement to better understand the problematic and some of the priorities in Port Arthur area. Enforcement agreed to create a BMPs and priorities that will address these concerns. We will have (tentatively second week of March) a meeting discuss the BMPs and priorities results. I am forwarding the information that we shared with them.
- We are working with EPA partners and TCEQ (Ashley Wadick) are working in the development of BMPs that will support the profile and the risk communication in Port Arthur.

B. Unemployment and Skill Development

- EJ Grant "The Golden Triangle Empowerment Center Job Training Program" Completed

C. Downtown and Westside Revitalization

- Monica Smith (Brownfield) explained to EJ and Mr. Hall, that the Region 6 Brownfields program had committed over \$350K to develop an inventory of Brownfields properties in the downtown and Westside areas of Port Arthur along with completing 10 Phase I and 5 Phase II environmental assessments and cleanup plans. Monica Smith will present the Brownfield inventory at the March 10 Port Arthur Downtown and Westside Revitalization Workgroup meeting.

D. Community Health

- As part of the health workgroup initiatives in Port Arthur, after different meetings and coordination with our health workgroup and EPA (R6 and HQ), we obtained two training events in Port Arthur.
Healthy Homes Training events:
1. Essentials For Healthy Homes Practitioners
This is a two days training that will be provided to health professionals and housing authority representatives in Port Arthur
Data: April 28-29, 2011
Location: City Conference Center in Port Arthur
Time: 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

An effort has been undertaken to finalize Port Arthur's Environmental Justice (EJ) Initiative. The work to finalize the EJ Plan is being done through six Workgroups that include stakeholders from across the City. The six workgroups are:

1. Environmental Quality and Emergency Response
2. Unemployment and Skill Development
3. Housing
4. Westside and Downtown Revitalization
5. Energy Efficiency
6. Community Health.

The Environmental Quality and Emergency Response Workgroup
(Revised on 2/10/2011)

CHAIR: Morris Carter (mocarter@sbcglobal.net)

MEMBERS: Bill Luthans, EPA (luthans.william@epamail.epa.gov)
Israel Anderson, EPA (anderson.israel@epamail.epa.gov)
Jack Arias, EPA (arias.jack@epamail.epa.gov)
Ashley Wadick, TCEQ (akwadick@tceq.state.tx.us)
John Owens, City of Port Arthur (jowens@portarthurpd.com)
Pastor Randy Vaughn (rgheartbeat51@yahoo.com)
Hilton Kelley, CIDA (hiltonkelleycida@yahoo.com)
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William Wilson, Motiva (william.wilson@motivaent.com)
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Carol Herbert, BASF (carol.herbert@basf.com)

MISSION: Develop strategies and approaches to further improve Port Arthur's environmental quality and to increase Port Arthur residents' awareness of the area's environmental issues and improvements, and emergency response plan.

The Projects the Workgroup will focus on are:

- Finalize the Environmental Profile of Port Arthur.

- Finalize the risk communication document relative to Port Arthur's environmental profile.
- Review Port Arthur's Emergency Response Plan, particularly the public outreach components of the plan. Identify and develop needed improvements. Communicate the result of this effort to Port Arthur residents.
- Consult with the Office of Pipeline Safety on community concerns regarding the location and safety of pipelines in Port Arthur. Develop a set of issues that the EPA and other federal agencies need to consider relative to the authorization of proposed pipelines in Port Arthur. Facilitate a public forum on this issue during the second half of 2011.
- Develop a Sustainable Development Plan for consideration and adoption by PAIG Companies.
- Review available data regarding underground storage tanks in Port Arthur. Identify the follow up issues which maybe necessary.
- Use the Environmental Profile being developed by the EPA to identify any additional issues that need to be addressed.

The Unemployment and Skill Development Workgroup
(Revised 2/10/2011)

CHAIR: Pat Avery (pat.avery@total.com)

MEMBERS:

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Bob Williamson, City of Port Arthur (williamson@portarthur.net)
Dr. Johnny Brown, PAISD (johnnedwardbrown@aol.com)
Melvin White, Digital Workforce (mwhite@mrsmanagement.com)
Linda Spears, Port of Port Arthur (turnerspears4848@yahoo.com)
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Bruce Block, HEB (bruceblock@heb.com)
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Mark Porterie, PAISD (mporterie@paisd.org)
Tashiica Miles, CIDA (rubisapphire@yahoo.com)
Terry Rogers, Valero (terry.rogers@valero.com)
Patricia Shorter (pshorter@eda.doc.gov)
Carol Herbert, BASF (carol.herbert@BASF.com)

MISSION: Develop a comprehensive strategy to effectively address Port Arthur's unemployment and skill development challenges.

The Projects the Workgroup will focus on are:

- Development of a Real Time Workforce Intelligence Database for Port Arthur, including identification of the key roles that employers, educational institutions and workforce experts must play to assure effective implementation of the system when it is developed. Also, create the framework for a coordinated job training and placement effort in Port Arthur.
- Development of a set of initiatives to assure continued progress in addressing Port Arthur's unemployment challenges in the short term.
- Seek approximately \$3.0 million from various sources over the next two to three years to facilitate the training and placement of Port Arthur residents in available jobs.

The Housing Workgroup
(Revised 2/10/2011)

CHAIR: Ronnie Linden (ronnlnd@aol.com)

MEMBERS:

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Denise Cole, PHA (denise.cole@pahousing.org)
Lindsey Williams, PHA (lindsey.williams@pahousing.org)
Shaun Davis, Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission (sdavis@setrpc.org)
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

MISSION: Improve housing opportunities for Port Arthur residents.

The Projects the Workgroup will focus on are:

- Develop a comprehensive plan to replace Carver Terrance.
- Develop a plan to convert the property that Carver Terrance is currently located on to a greenbelt area.
- Develop a plan to replace the houses on Foley and Hegert Streets.
- Explore the option of developing a SEP to support home repairs for houses near the industrial facilities that operate on the Westside to enhance environmental safety relative to sheltering in place.

The Downtown and Westside Revitalization Workgroup
(Revised 2/10/2011)

CHAIR: Judyette Jackson (judyj2002@gmail.com)

MEMBERS:

Jack Chatman, City of Port Arthur (jckchatman@yahoo.com)
Jonathan Markley, EDA (jmarkley@eda.doc.gov)
Patricia Shorter, EDA (pshorter@eda.doc.gov)
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Ike Mills, CIDA (igalikemills@swbell.net)
Verna Rutherford, Motiva (verna.rutherford@motivaent.com)
Roosevelt Petry, Downtown Commission (rpetry@gpic2000.com)

MISSION: Facilitate economic development and community improvements in Downtown Port Arthur and in the City's Westside.

The Projects the Workgroup will focus on are:

- Redevelop the Sabine Hotel
- Construction of a community center on the City's Westside.
- The Procter Street Improvement Project.
- Develop a Community or Hometown Grocery Store on the Westside, or on land owned by the City near the Westside.
- Develop a strategy to train and place Port Arthur residents in a significant proportion of the jobs that are created.

The Community Health Workgroup
(Revised 2/10/2011)

CHAIR: Yoshi Alexander (Yoshi@portarthur.net)

MEMBERS:

Princess Jackson, Ph.D, Health and Human Services (pdjackson@hrsa.gov)
David Hartman, Gulf Coast Health Centers (DHartman@gulfcoasthc.org)
State Health and Human Services Department
St. Mary's Hospital
Renaissance Hospital
Southeast Texas Medical Center
Marie Kelley, CIDA, Inc. (l_marie_kelley40@yahoo.com)

MISSION: Provide improved health services to Port Arthur residents.

The Projects the Workgroup will focus on are:

- Construction and operation of a health clinic by Gulf Coast on the Westside.
- Construction and operation of a pharmacy on the City's Westside.
- Explore the option of implementing the EPA's Healthy Homes Program in Port Arthur.

The Energy Efficiency Workgroup
(Revised 2/17/2011)

CHAIR: Pam Lewis (plewis@setrpc.org)

MEMBERS:

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EPA Energy Liaison
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Linda Simpson, CIDA, Inc.
Don Vallier, Motiva (donald.vallier@motivaent.com)

MISSION: Obtain additional funding from state and federal agencies to install energy efficiency improvements in 200-300 homes of low income families in Port Arthur, Texas over the next two to three years.

The Projects the Workgroup will focus on:

- Explore the option of obtaining funding from DOE, the State Energy Conservation Office and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Develop applications for funding to those entities where appropriate.
- Development and submittal of an Energy Efficiency SEP to EPA.
- Develop a strategy to train and place Port Arthur residents in the energy efficiency jobs that maybe created.

Project Update



Port Arthur, Texas – Westside Community – January - June 2010

Community comments frame Port Arthur Westside Showcase Plan

On November 17, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new national initiative to address Environmental Justice (EJ) challenges in ten communities across the country. The Westside community of Port Arthur, Texas was selected as an EJ Showcase Community.

The EJ Showcase Community project will use a collaborative community-based approach to improve the community's public health and the environment. On January 19 and March 4, 2010, EPA held public meetings in Port Arthur. EPA used input from these meetings to develop an action plan for the project.

The following is a summary of issues raised during the January 19, 2010, meeting.

Environmental

Emergency Response

The community raised concerns about local area emergency response planning for various emergency situations, including accidental releases, explosions, natural disasters, etc. There was also concern about the current process for providing resident notifications during such events. Residents stated that emergency notification methods should go beyond computer, television or newspaper--particularly for elderly and those who have limited access to those mediums. A concern was expressed that area roadways might experience bottlenecks during future emergency evacuation events.

Air

Several general concerns were expressed about local air quality. Residents mentioned odor issues and indicated a need for more air monitoring at community fence lines. Community concerns exist about local industrial facilities' green house emissions, incident

EPA's Commitment to Environmental Justice

"We must take special pains to connect with those who have been historically underrepresented in EPA decision-making, including the disenfranchised in our cities and rural areas, communities of color, native Americans, people disproportionately impacted by pollution, and small businesses, cities, and towns working to meet their environmental responsibilities. Like all Americans, they deserve an EPA with an open mind, a big heart and a willingness to listen...we must be sensitive to the burdens pollution has placed on vulnerable subpopulations, including children, the elderly, the poor and all others who are at particular risk to threats to health and the environment. We must seek their full partnership in the greater aim of identifying and eliminating the sources of pollution in their neighborhoods, schools and homes."

— EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson

air emissions, and releases to the environment.

Water

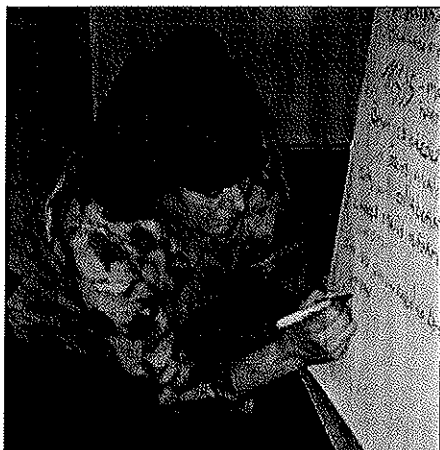
The community expressed concerns about local drinking water quality (such as taste, clarity, and color). Concern exists about the wastewater being discharged from the fish market operations (Kim's Seafood).



Continued on Pages 2-3



Shirley Augurson, Associate Director for Environmental Justice, EPA Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs, leads a breakout session during a meeting with community members in Port Arthur in March.



EPA Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Director Jeannine Hale takes notes during a community meeting on the Showcase Community project in Port Arthur in January.



Deborah Ponder, EPA Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Deputy Director, with Port Arthur Mayor Deloris "Bobbie" Prince during the March EJ Showcase meeting.

General Environmental

- The community asked for access to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for chemicals or hazardous materials used, stored or produced by local industry.
- The community also asked for access to reports of what local industrial facilities are releasing or emitting to the environment.
- The community is interested in creating buffers between residential areas and plant operations.
- Concern was expressed about negotiations with industry (e.g., pipelines) for easements or right of ways across the residents' properties.
- A resident expressed a desire that future environmental violation fines imposed on local industry be used to benefit the community (e.g., more use of Supplemental Environmental Projects, or SEPs).

Health

The residents expressed concerns about local health issues. Respiratory ailments, asthma, cancer, and allergies are some specific community health concerns. Some residents believe a long term health effects or epidemiological study is needed for the community.

Economic Revitalization

The residents want more job opportunities, particularly from local industry. Some commenters were interested in reestablishing a local brownfields to help with Westside redevelopment (such as removal of blight, vacant property reuse, economic rebirth).

Other Concerns

- The residents believe there are opportunities for improved communications between all parties; between the residents and local industry (e.g., plant incidents, information about local industrial construction projects, plant operations and routine releases); and between the residents and local leaders.
- Some individuals expressed a lack of trust of local government leadership. They do not trust the state environmental department (TCEQ), and they do not trust that EPA and the state are solving community problems.
- Noise level in the community is a concern.
- A concern was raised regarding the need for more developed recreation facilities (e.g., parks, community meeting space, and green space).
- The need for improved local leadership is a concern.
- A concern was expressed about local zoning.
- There was a concern about local government seizure of privately-owned properties.
- Some individuals expressed interest in potential resident relocation away from heavy industry.

Proposed Showcase Project Activities

The activities listed below are being planned or considered for implementation in the Port Arthur Westside EJ Showcase Community project. EPA will continue to pursue other ways to address the Westside community's concerns. If you have any suggestions or comments, please provide them to EPA by **September 17, 2010**.

Environmental

Emergency Response

- Hold workshops on local emergency response plans
- Participate in local notification exercise
- Provide Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT)

Air

- Inform community about EPA state wide initiative to improve state air permits
- Inform community about area air quality data
- Promote EPA's Healthy School Environments Programs to community schools
- Educate community on asthma triggers

Water

- Inform community about area water quality data
- Inform community about local public water system evaluation
- Inform community about evaluation of water permits issued to area plants
- Inform community about area groundwater data evaluation

Projects supported with EPA EJ Showcase Community funds (\$100,000):

- Healthy Homes Outreach Project, University of Texas Foundation in collaboration with University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and Community In Power and Development Association, \$14,799
- After School Environmental Science Lab Project, Tekoa Charter School, \$14,550
- Golden Triangle Empowerment Center Job Training Program, \$14,800
- EPA 'Environmental Profile' outreach document development, \$46,776
- Facilitation services at January 19, 2010, meeting, \$2,951
- Future facilitation services, \$6,120

General

Inform local leaders of recent state and federal environmental compliance plant inspections to encourage Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) for community

Health

- Develop or enhance local lead paint hazard outreach program
- Hold Health Awareness Outreach Events

Economic Revitalization

- Do site environmental assessments for downtown buildings to help reuse or redevelopment
- Do downtown site inventory
- Inform local leaders of Job Training grant opportunities

Other

- Hold event for South East Texas Regional Planning Commission and Industry Lighthouse Program

Jeannine Hale, Director, Office of Environmental Justice & Tribal Affairs (214) 665-2136
Deborah Ponder, Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Justice & Tribal Affairs (214) 665-7461
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2009 News Releases

EPA Announces Environmental Justice Showcase Communities

Release Date: 11/17/2009

Contact Information: Deb Berlin, berlin.deb@epa.gov, 202-564-4914, 202-564-4355

WASHINGTON – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa P. Jackson announced a national initiative to address environmental justice challenges in 10 communities. EPA has committed \$1 million to this effort over the next two years.

"These 10 communities will serve as models for the EPA's committed environmental justice efforts, and help highlight the disproportionate environmental burdens placed on low-income and minority communities all across the nation," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "By expanding the conversation on environmentalism, we can give a voice to vulnerable groups that haven't always had a voice on these issues. Our 10 Showcase Communities will provide lessons for how we make every community a better place for people to live, for business to invest and bring jobs, and for opportunities to grow."

The selected Environmental Justice Showcase Communities will use collaborative, community-based approaches to improve public health and the environment. EPA will provide \$100,000 per project to help address concerns in communities disproportionately exposed to environmental risks. These demonstration projects will test and share information on different approaches to increase EPA's ability to achieve environmental results in communities.

The following locations will serve as Environmental Justice Showcase Communities:

Bridgeport, Connecticut: EPA will build on work that has already taken place to develop community capacity and engagement, identify a broad network of partnerships, and connect with the goals of the city government. Using this

past work as a foundation, EPA plans to work collaboratively with a wide-range of stakeholders to develop projects focused on improving indoor air quality, increasing community capacity for green jobs, increasing recycling rates, and reducing asthma and toxics exposure.

Staten Island, New York: EPA will work with the North Shore of Staten Island, a former industrial community that now contains many abandoned, contaminated, and regulated properties along the waterfront. This neighborhood has seen an increase in the number of kids with elevated lead levels in their blood. EPA, in consultation with key community members and state and local health agencies will develop a community-based health strategy for the area.

Washington, D.C.: EPA is building on its environmental justice work with a variety of partners, such as: the District Department of Environment; the District Department of Health; and, local recipients of Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving and Environmental Justice Small Grant awards.

Jacksonville, Florida: EPA will focus on improving environmental and public health outcomes in an area that consists of a predominantly low income and minority population. This area has a number of Superfund sites, brownfields, vacant and abandoned lots or other properties where contamination is suspected, and impacted waterways. EPA will work with its partners, including environmental justice community representatives, to address sites of concern and turn them into an opportunity for residents to collaborate with developers and revitalize their neighborhoods.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin: EPA will work to further the redevelopment of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor. The corridor, a former rail line in the north-central part of the city, is home to low income communities of color. This project seeks to improve the human, environmental and economic health of these neighborhoods by redeveloping brownfields along the corridor, implementing environmentally preferable stormwater management practices, and developing urban agriculture.

Port Arthur, Texas: EPA proposes a comprehensive, cross-media pilot project in Port Arthur, Texas, a racially and ethnically diverse population along the Gulf Coast of southeast Texas. This community was severely impacted as a result of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike. Through the EJ Showcase Project, EPA will work with partners to strategically target additional work and supplement ongoing efforts.

Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas: EPA has identified 11 neighborhoods in the metropolitan area that have many risk factors including poor housing conditions and increased exposure to environmental hazards. EPA will conduct an assessment to identify specific sources of

NON-COMPETITION AWARD CERTIFICATION

TO: Assistant Administrator
Office of the Administration and Resources Management

As required by the April 5, 2005, policy on the "Review and Announcement of Discretionary Grants" with respect to the proposed non-competitive award to the non-profit, Community In-Power and Development Association (CIDA), for a grant to support a local community outreach program on environmental matters, under CFDA No. 66.604 (Environmental Justice Small Grants Program).

The \$14,xxx grant will help support a new outreach effort to the Port Arthur Westside community. CIDA will develop and distribute regular community newsletters on environmental and health issues of concern to this vulnerable community. The grant will be used to pay for staff and supplies to prepare and distribute a routine community newsletter. The outcome of this project will be the increased community awareness of environmental and health issues. CIDA has never received an EPA grant. This grant project is unique and separate from other EJ Showcase activities.

This project proposal was received outside the EJ Small Grants competition (EPA-OECA-OEJ-10-01) conducted under the same CFDA. Proposals for the national FY10 EJ Small Grants competition were due on January 8, 2010. The EJ Showcase Communities initiative national announcement was November 17, 2009. To assure the Port Arthur EJ Showcase project was a collaborative community-based effort, EPA sought resident input on community concerns prior to developing the project action plan. The subject grant is part of this plan. The initial Port Arthur public meeting to solicit community concerns was held on January 19, 2010. A follow-up meeting was held on March 4, 2010. The national announcement and Port Arthur project start-up activities did not align with the FY10 EJ Small Grant competition schedule. Also, there was insufficient time between the development of the action plan and the national funds obligation award deadline (June 30, 2010) to allow for a regional mini-grant competition. Therefore, the competition policy exception for this grant is necessary.

I hereby certify that:

1. The expected outcomes of the award are appropriate and in support of program goals;
2. There is no questionable pattern of repeated awards to the same recipient; and
3. An adequate basis exists for the proposed non-competitive award under EPA Order 5700.5A1, paragraph 12.a.(1), exception for grants below \$15,000.

Al Armendariz Regional Administrator (6RA)

Date

APPROVING OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

I have reviewed the proposed action and certify that it meets the requirements of the Administrator's April 2, 2005, memorandum entitled, "Review and Announcement of Discretionary Grants".

Deborah Ponder, Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Justice
and Tribal Affairs

Date

Port Arthur, Texas

The Region 6 EPA Westside Community Team partnered with local, State and Federal Governments to direct resources and focus activities to help an underserved EJ community gain access to a number of services that improve their quality of life. The project is a culmination of efforts led by EPA to engage other government agencies, the Environmental Justice Community, petrochemical facilities surrounding the community and other stakeholders in a collaborative effort to address community issues. The Team's approach serves as a model for the Agency and all levels of government in dealing with neglected communities nationwide.

The Westside Community is a disenfranchised fragment of the city of Port Arthur, Texas, where schools, playgrounds and housing are pressed against the fenceline of a massive petrochemical industrial complex that includes the largest oil refinery in the U.S. by production (Motiva), the 6th largest oil refinery (Valero-Premcor), chemical plants and a facility with a hazardous waste incinerator (Veolia). On the west and north sides of the community, giant tanks, pipelines and processing facilities with visible emission plumes are only a stone's throw away from the small community park where children play, the lot where school bands practice and the field where older kids participate in outdoor sports activities. On the south side, the main street is lined with boarded up buildings, sidewalks are deserted, and local commerce fails to thrive due to historical disinvestment and recent hurricanes. Economic development has left behind Westside residents, estimated to be 97% African American, to live with chronic unemployment amid vacant lots in a decaying neighborhood that has no grocery store or health care facilities.

In 2010, Region 6 began a focused effort to expand the conversation about the environmental concerns of residents and target EPA actions to help the Westside become a healthy community. First, EPA staff engaged in dialogue with Westside Community residents, community groups and religious leaders, who identified their most pressing concerns as: unemployment and economic development, health effects from air emissions, inadequate emergency preparedness and risks associated with the adjacent industrial complex. EPA later expanded outreach to include City officials, industry, state and local government, and additional federal agencies. Next, residents and other stakeholders were brought together at an Environmental Summit to form Workgroups to address community concerns. Internally, the Region 6 Deputies' EJ Steering Group, Office of Environmental Justice and other EPA staff developed a community Workplan that targeted EPA resources across the agency in a coordinated, multimedia effort.

The synergy created by EPA and stakeholders working together to target and leverage resources resulted in a myriad of successes, including: **\$1,000,000 for community health services; an Environmental Profile and trainings that informed residents about conditions as they relate to health concerns; education about emergency response procedures and work to address specific community concerns about notification; \$330,000 in Brownfields Assessments; and a commitment to work towards relocation of residents living in public housing on the fenceline of industry.**